

What is claimed is:

1. A ball member for use with an assembly of the type used for suspending an object from a surface, wherein the assembly typically includes:
 - (i) a down rod having an outer diameter, an upper end, and a lower end for engaging the object;
 - (ii) a ball member having a diameter wherein the ball member is connected to the upper end of the down rod;
 - (iii) a hanger bracket having an upper end for being mounted to the surface and a bottom end defining a socket having an opening therethrough that is smaller than the diameter of the ball member, the opening defining a radius, wherein the ball is received in the socket such that the down rod extends through the opening; and,
 - (iv) wherein the socket further defines a gap that is wider than the width of the down rod and narrower than the diameter of the ball member and that is positioned so that the down rod can pass through the gap when mounting the ball member in the socket, the ball member comprising: a generally hemispherical body having a longitudinal axis, a bore extending through the body obliquely relative to the longitudinal axis of the body.
2. The ball member of claim 1 wherein the longitudinal axis of the hemispherical body and the bore's longitudinal axis define an angle, α .
3. The ball member of claim 1 wherein the hemispherical body is generally hollow and has an integrally formed receptacle having four upstanding walls for containing a pin.
4. The ball member of claim 2 wherein angle α is in a range of between about 25 and 55 degrees.

5. The ball member of claim 2 wherein the hemispherical body is generally hollow and has an integrally formed receptacle having four upstanding walls for containing a pin.

6. The ball member of claim 4 wherein the hemispherical body is generally hollow and has an integrally formed receptacle having four upstanding walls for containing a pin.

7. An assembly for suspending an object from a surface comprising:

- (i) a down rod having a width, an upper end, and a lower end for engaging the object;
- (ii) a ball member comprising a generally hemispherical body having a longitudinal axis, a bore extending through the body obliquely relative to the longitudinal axis of the body, said ball member also having a diameter wherein the ball member is connected to the upper end of the down rod;
- (iii) a hanger bracket having an upper end for being mounted to the surface and a bottom end defining a socket having an opening therethrough that is smaller than the diameter of the ball member, the opening defining a radius, wherein the ball is received in the socket such that the down rod extends through the opening.

8. The assembly of claim 7 wherein the longitudinal axis of the hemispherical body and the bore's longitudinal axis define an angle, α .

9. The assembly of claim 7 wherein the hemispherical body is generally hollow and has an integrally formed receptacle having four upstanding walls for containing a pin.

10. The assembly of claim 8 wherein angle α has a value in a range between about 25 and 25 degrees.

11. The assembly of claim 9 wherein the longitudinal axis of the hemispherical body and the bore's longitudinal axis define an angle, α , angle α having a value in a range between about 25 and 55 degrees.

12. A ceiling fan comprising an assembly for mounting to a ceiling, a motor, a rotating member, and an upper stationary member, wherein said assembly comprises:

- (i) a down rod having a width, an upper end, and a lower end for engaging the upper stationary member;
- (ii) a ball member comprising a generally hemispherical body having a longitudinal axis, a bore extending through the body obliquely relative to the longitudinal axis of the body, the ball member also having a diameter wherein the ball member is connected to the upper end of the down rod;
- (iii) a hanger bracket having an upper end for being mounted to the ceiling and a bottom end defining a socket having an opening therethrough that is smaller than the diameter of the ball member, the opening defining a radius, wherein the ball is received in the socket such that the down rod extends through the opening.

13. The ball member of claim 12 wherein the longitudinal axis of the hemispherical body and the bore's longitudinal axis define an angle, α .

14. The ball member of claim 13 wherein the hemispherical body is generally hollow and has an integrally formed receptacle having four upstanding walls for containing a pin.

15. The ball member of claim 14 wherein angle α is in a range of between about 25 and 55 degrees.

16. A method for suspending an object from a surface comprising the steps of:

- (i) mounting an upper end of a hanger bracket to the surface, the hanger bracket having a bottom end that defines a socket;
- (ii) providing a generally hemispherically shaped ball member having a longitudinal axis, a bore extending through the body obliquely relative to the longitudinal axis of the body;
- (iii) providing a down rod having an upper end and a lower end, the ball member being connected to the upper end of the down rod;
- (iv) passing the down rod through a gap in the socket and into a circular opening defined by the socket, the gap and the opening each being wider than the width of the down rod and narrower than the diameter of the ball member;
- (v) lowering the ball member into the socket so that the down rod extends through the opening; and,
- (vi) connecting the lower end of the down rod to the object.

17. The ball member of claim 16 wherein the longitudinal axis of the hemispherical body and the bore's longitudinal axis define an angle, α .

18. The ball member of claim 16 wherein the hemispherical body is generally hollow and has an integrally formed receptacle having four upstanding walls for containing a pin.

19. The ball member of claim 17 wherein angle α is in a range of between about 25 and 55 degrees.

20. The ball member of claim 18 wherein angle α is in a range of between about 25 and 55 degrees.

21. A hanger bracket for use with an assembly for suspending an object from a surface, the hanger bracket comprising: a top for being mounted to the surface, a bottom socket for receiving a ball member, and a wall connecting the bottom socket and the top, wherein the wall has at least one reinforcing member formed therein.

22. The bracket of claim 21 wherein the bottom socket has a gap, and a protruding member is formed in the socket across from the gap.